

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

In the instant Office Action dated July 25, 2007, claims 1-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shaeffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,963,626) in view of Hadwiger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,845).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 103(a) rejections of claims 1-56 because the cited portions of the Shaeffer and Hadwiger references do not correspond to the claimed invention which includes, for example, aspects directed to access requests issued by the one or more bus masters to access the bus being restricted in response to a signal indicative of a change in a mode of operation of the RF circuit. In an effort to facilitate prosecution, Applicant has amended certain claims to recite that which would have been clear to one of skill in the art, specifically that access requests issued by the one or more bus masters to access the bus are restricted. Applicant respectfully submits that the system taught by Shaeffer does not restrict access requests. For example, the cited portions of the Shaeffer reference teach that a time controller disables digital processing circuitry while analog circuitry is being used and that the time controller disables the analog circuitry while the digital processing circuitry is being used. *See, e.g.*, Figures 1 and 2; Col. 5:47 to Col. 6:10. The Office Action appears to be confusing disabling of a processor function with restricting access requests. During such disabling, no access requests would be generated, and thus, there would be no access requests to restrict. Shaeffer simply teaches disabling a processor, there is no arbitration of access requests or restriction of access requests in response to a signal indicative of a mode change as in the claimed invention.

Moreover, the arbiter taught by the Hadwiger reference does not restrict accesses in response to change in a mode of operation. *See, e.g.*, Figure 2 and Col. 4:30 to Col. 5:21. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action's asserted combination would not restrict access requests issued by the one or more other masters to access the bus. Accordingly, the rejections are improper because neither of the references teach that access requests are restricted (responsive to a mode change).

Applicant submits that each of the independent claims recites features similar to those discussed above, including limitations directed toward restricting accesses by a bus master in response to a mode change signal. Each claim that depends from an independent claim includes the limitations of its respective independent claim. Accordingly, the asserted combination fails to correspond to the claimed invention and Applicant requests that each of the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicant further traverses the Section 103(a) rejections of claims 1-56 because the Office Action provides insufficient detail to enable Applicant to determine the propriety of the asserted combination. According to M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j), "It is important for an examiner to properly communicate the basis for a rejection so that the issues can be identified early and the applicant can be given fair opportunity to reply." Applicant has reviewed the cited portions of the references and submits that these portions do not provide clarification regarding how one of skill in the art would combine the references or how such a combination would function. For example, it is unclear whether the Office Action is proposing to replace Shaeffer's DSP 116 with Hadwiger's DSP 201, MCU 22 and BAM 211, or whether these elements of Hadwiger would be added in addition to Shaeffer's DSP 116. In another example, it is unclear how the above mentioned elements of Hadwiger would function responsive to Shaeffer's time controller 110.

Moreover, the Office Action's lack of specificity is further exacerbated by contradictory statements regarding the alleged teachings of the cited references. For example, on one hand the Office Action asserts that Shaeffer teaches restricting accesses by the one or more other bus masters in response to a signal indicative of a change in a mode of operation of the RF circuit. *See, e.g.*, page 2 of the instant Office Action. However, on the other hand the Office Action states that Shaeffer does not disclose one or more other bus masters coupled to the bus. *See, e.g.*, page 3 of the instant Office Action. Applicant submits that it is illogical to assert that Shaeffer teaches restricting accesses by the one or more other bus masters when the reference does not even have one or more other bus masters.

In view of the above, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1-56 is improper and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn. Should any rejection based upon the Shaeffer

and Hadwiger references be maintained, Applicant respectfully requests clarification regarding how the Office Action is proposing to combine these references and how such a combination would function. In addition, should any rejection based upon these references be maintained, Applicant respectfully requests an opportunity to respond thereto. According to M.P.E.P. § 706.07, "Before final rejection is in order a clear issue should be developed between the examiner and applicant." Applicant submits that a clear issue has not been developed between Applicant and the Examiner due to the lack of specificity provided in the instant Office Action regarding the proposed combination and due to the Office Action's contradictory statements as discussed above. Accordingly, should any rejection based upon the Shaeffer and Hadwiger references be maintained, Applicant should be afforded an opportunity to respond.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063 (or the undersigned).

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